

Since 1977, Maryland hospitals have been paid on the basis of the rates established by the HSCRC, ensuring that Maryland's health costs are kept low, and that its health system is tailored to the needs of its citizens. Under Hal's leadership, the State of Maryland has saved over \$47 billion since 1976. The HSCRC has been essential in ensuring that each hospital in Maryland provides comprehensive care that includes assistance for the underinsured, as well as incorporating teaching and research programs into the structure of the hospital center.

As Executive Director of the HSCRC, Dr. Cohen ushered the organization through its first 15 years. He worked to ensure that the agency would work well with Maryland hospitals, the Maryland State Legislature, and most importantly, for Maryland's citizens in a transparent and accountable fashion. The independent nature of the HSCRC allows the agency the ability to advocate for and support a legislative agenda, and Dr. Cohen used this ability over the length of his career to fight for fair and sustainable pricing structures that support hospitals and patients.

The system set up by the HSCRC was so well-conceived that it has succeeded for nearly 35 years. All-payer rate setting is now being discussed by many leading health economists as an effective way to control the unsustainable growth in health care costs.

Dr. Cohen's base of knowledge has been widely sought. He has served on three Federal committees, and he was a founding appointee to the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission—ProPAC. He has also served as a member of the National Committee on Rural Health, the National Committee of Vital and Health Statistics, and he served as Commissioner of the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission from 1993 to 1998. As Commissioner, he played a key role in improving quality and expanding health care access, by initiating HMO report cards to evaluate quality and establishing a small group market system to make insurance more affordable for small businesses.

In 1985, 2 years before he would step down as the Executive Director of HSCRC, he founded Hal Cohen, Inc., a health care consulting firm located in Baltimore, MD to offer consulting services in the areas of hospital financing and public policy. He has served clients from every corner of the industry and all over the country, from the Federal Government to private insurers, from HMOs to self-insured companies.

In addition to his significant and long-lasting professional impact, Dr. Hal Cohen is known throughout Baltimore as a loving husband and father. Hal and his wife, Jo, have been married for more than 50 years, and their family has grown to include their children—Robb, Gail, David, Heather, and Amy—and their five grandchildren—Lizzie, Alex, Max, Zhi, and Olive.

Dr. Cohen's extensive work will continue to make Maryland a better place

to live. His essential leadership was crucial in building the HSCRC as a force for fairness in health care pricing and for expanding patient access to health care. I thank him for his long service, and I congratulate him on his many years of putting the people of Maryland first—he is a public servant of the highest caliber, and I am proud to call him my trusted advisor and dear friend.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY BERGMANN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in recognizing Nancy Bergmann's retirement after 26 years of dedicated and effective service.

For the past 18 years, Nancy has represented the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, in promoting economic development, expanding technology business sectors and creating understanding about the nuclear and energy missions at INL. Nancy is a well-known and endearing figure in Idaho's high-technology business community. During her career, she has made a significant impact in helping small businesses, nurturing entrepreneurs, and aiding communities in increasing their technology business base. Previously, she initiated Idaho's Hispanic Youth Symposium while managing INL's diversity program in human resources, which also was recognized by President George H.W. Bush for excellence. With more than 30 years of involvement in serving United Way and community service, Nancy also has been appointed to more than 25 boards and commissions, including the Idaho Rural Partnership, Idaho TechConnect, and many more.

Nancy has also been instrumental in organizing regional economic development offices throughout Idaho. In addition to serving on the National United Way Board of America, Nancy has been named INL's Woman of the Year, Idaho's Business Woman of the Year, and 2008 Idaho Business Review Woman of the Year. On November 18, 2011, the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization honored Nancy for a decade of support by establishing the Nancy Bergmann/INL Math & Science Scholarship, managed by the College of Southern Idaho Foundation.

We wish Nancy an enjoyable retirement and a wonderful time with her family, including five granddaughters. We hope that retirement will provide Nancy with more opportunities to enjoy Idaho's magnificent sunsets. Congratulations to Nancy for achieving this milestone, and thank you, Nancy, for your outstanding service to Idaho communities.●

RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise to give a voice to the countless children in need of good homes all across this country and to recognize an orga-

nization in my State that helps provide these children with a safe environment and a nurturing family.

The Children's Home Society has served West Virginia for 115 years. This organization has 12 locations all across our State that work to meet one critical mission: finding homes for children who don't have a loving place to live.

I have always said the best investment we can make in our country is an investment in the next generation, and that starts with making sure each of our children has a place to call home. That is why the work of the Children's Home Society is so important.

More than 400 children in my home State of West Virginia are currently living in a foster home. For many of them, it is the first time they have received a safe place to live and loving care. The Children's Home Society has worked tirelessly on their behalf. Their programs range from emergency shelters to foster and adoption services and mentoring. The organization exists to help care for, protect, and nurture children, as well as strengthen and protect families.

The Children's Home Society has also worked vigorously to build awareness throughout our State. This fall the organization hosted the Footsteps for Foster Kids Festival, an event created to illustrate the need for foster families in West Virginia and recruit families who can provide loving homes for children. All day long, children and families had opportunities to participate in various activities at the festival, including paddle boat races and fishing competitions. More than 400 people attended, and the Children's Home Society was able to reach out to new families interested in opening their homes to children in need.

In fact, the idea for the Footsteps for Foster Kids Festival first came from our young people, when 10 area youth called the Band Together Organization worked with the Children's Home Society to make the day a true success. They are an inspiring group, and we are all proud of their efforts and service to the community.

I would like to congratulate the Children's Home Society for their legacy of impressive and meaningful work and thank the Band Together Organization for the commitment they have demonstrated to improving the lives of children. Your example serves our State and our Nation well.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2192. An act to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or